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## The Beat: April 2008

CentraCare Health

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April 2008

**Do you have an idea for the *Beat*?**

Contact Chris Nelson  
in Communications by calling  
(320) 229-5199, ext. 71384,  
or e-mail [nelsonc@centracare.com](mailto:nelsonc@centracare.com)

## Quality care is our hallmark

Dear Friends:

Central Minnesotans are in good hands with CentraCare.

St. Cloud Hospital's recent inclusion, for the sixth time, on the list of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals is based on solid data that proves we provide high-quality, low-cost care. Top 100 winners excel in clinical indicators, including mortality and complications rates; patient safety index; and compliance with Core Measures established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Winners also are financially strong.

This is the latest in an impressive string of recognition for CentraCare Health System services. Consider the following points of pride:

- Repeated recognition for St. Cloud Hospital in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual ranking of America's Best Hospitals.
- The Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance presented an Excellence in Practice Award to St. Benedict's Senior Community in St. Cloud. The award recognizes SBSC for its partnership with Whitney Senior Center on Whitney WithOut Walls, which takes programs and services directly to seniors.
- UCare, an independent, not-for-profit health plan, granted \$75,000 to CentraCare Clinic in 2007 based on the clinic's ability to improve outcomes. In addition, the clinic met numerous goals, in areas such as asthma management for pediatric patients and comprehensive diabetes management, in Blue Cross and Blue Shield's Recognizing Excellence program.

- *Modern Healthcare* magazine recognized Melrose Area Hospital as one of the nation's top-performing critical access hospitals.
- Long Prairie Memorial Hospital was the first in the state to be designated a Comprehensive Advanced Life Support hospital, based on excellence in rural emergency care.
- The hospitals in Long Prairie and St. Cloud have been accredited as bariatric surgery centers by the American College of Surgeons.

The list goes on and on. It is clear that CentraCare contributes to Minnesota's recognition as the best performing state — across all measures in overall health care — in a recent report by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, which is part of the United States Department of Health & Human Services.

It also is clear that people from this region do not need to travel to receive quality, affordable care. It is right here, thanks to your commitment. Every single employee contributes to these numerous successes. Thank you for living CentraCare's mission of working to improve the health of every patient, every day.

Sincerely,



Terry Pladson, M.D.  
President/CEO, CentraCare Health System

## Seckinger announces plans to retire

John Seckinger, chief financial officer at CentraCare Health System, will retire July 12 after 42 years of service.

Seckinger helped facilitate the growth and development of St. Cloud Hospital as well as the growth of CentraCare Health System into the most significant health care provider in the 12-county Central Minnesota service area.

## Melrose Area Hospital administrator resigns

Joan Jackson, administrator of Melrose Area Hospital since 1995, has resigned to pursue other interests. During her 13 years of service, Jackson helped initiate new programs and services and capital and facility improvements. Todd Stordahl, the hospital's director of finance, will be the interim administrator while CentraCare Health System conducts a candidate search.

## Melrose team receives 2007 Quality Award

Congratulations to the CentraCare Clinic - Melrose Depression Action Group, which was selected by the CentraCare Clinic Quality Council for the annual Quality Award. This clinic award recognizes employees for their commitment to quality and patient satisfaction.

## Melrose hospital news

Melrose Area Hospital has been certified as a Level IV Trauma Center by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Keri Wimmer, R.N., is the new Melrose Area Hospital director of nursing. Bertha Hartung, R.N., has been selected as the Pine Villa director of nursing.

## Mammograms in May

Anyone receiving a mammogram in May at the Breast Center at CentraCare Health Plaza will receive a free carnation in honor of all women.

## Long Prairie open house

Tour the newly remodeled chemotherapy, cardiac rehab, sports medicine, pharmacy and mammography departments from 4-6 p.m. May 14 at Long Prairie Memorial Hospital & Home. Also featured will be the newly accredited Bariatric Surgery Center and the EMR system. Refreshments will be provided. Call (320) 732-7324 for details.

## Long Prairie hospital receives \$125,000

Long Prairie Memorial Hospital was awarded \$125,000 through the Minnesota Department of Health Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Grant Program. The grant will help fund an immunoassay/chemistry analyzer for the laboratory department. The equipment installation is expected to be complete in early 2009.

## Alumni scholarship offered

A St. Cloud Hospital Nursing Alumni Scholarship is being offered to a graduate or a family member of a graduate of the St. Cloud Hospital School of Nursing, who is seeking a specialty degree within the field of nursing. The application deadline for scholarships is May 16. For more information, call (320) 240-2810 or visit [www.centracare.com/foundation/index.htm](http://www.centracare.com/foundation/index.htm).

## Spring Fling

The fifth annual Spring Fling will be 5:30 p.m. May 2 at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn & Suites. This year's proceeds will help support Pastoral Care, two new outdoor gardens and bringing nature indoors. Call (320) 240-2810 for details.

## Sleep Center Open House

Don't miss the St. Cloud Hospital Sleep Center's open house from 4-6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15. The center is at 1586 County Road 134 (near CentraCare Health Plaza). For more information, call (320) 251-0726.



## It's not too late to participate in the Employee Campaign

CentraCare Health Foundation's annual Employee Campaign ends April 30 — it's not too late to turn in your pledge card. The theme, *Small change, BIG change*, emphasizes the point that your gift, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in the lives of the patients we serve and the community programs we support. If you misplaced your pledge card, visit CentraNet and print off another one to help the campaign achieve its participation goal of 33 percent participation. For more information on how you can support the mission of CentraCare Health Foundation, call ext. 52810.

## Cancer registry

Quality cancer data is central to the nation's cancer fight, making registry vital to the cancer care team. Coborn Cancer Center has four cancer registrars. In 2006, 1,456 patients were entered into the registry database. St. Cloud Hospital has had a cancer registry department for more than 21 years.

## Dialysis to open in Litchfield

The anticipated opening of CentraCare Kidney Program-Litchfield Dialysis is May 5 with nine dialysis stations. With the addition of Litchfield, the CentraCare Kidney Program offers hemodialysis services in nine communities.

## Health event a huge success

The seventh annual Women's Health 101 event drew nearly 500 attendees on April 5. Thank you to all the providers, employees and volunteers who helped with the event.